GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2691
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
STATE OWNED CABLE TV CORPORATION
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sought permission from the Union Government to start State-owned Cable TV Corporation;

(b) if so, the details alongwith its features thereof;

(c) whether other State Governments have also expressed their desire to start such State-owned channels; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Government has provisionally authorized the M/s Arasu Cable Corporation Pvt.Ltd.under Rule 11 of the Cable Television Networks Rules,1994 to operate in Conditional Access System (CAS) notified areas of Chennai for the purposes of distributing/providing cable TV network services. The provisional authorization is subject to final decision of Government on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in the matter.

(c): Yes, Sir.The Government has received requests from State Governments from time to time for allowing them to enter into broadcasting activities.

(d): As per extent policy of the Government no State Government has been allowed to enter into broadcasting services.However,the Government had sought recommendations of TRAI, which have since been received. TRAI has not favoured the entry of State Government or its bodies into broadcasting and distribution services and has recommended that Prasar Bharati may fulfill their ambitions through its regional network. Government has not taken any decision on the said recommendations of TRAI. The detailed recommendations are available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in